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IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**August 12, 2004**

For immediate release

- 1. State revolving fund plans and animal rules on EPC agenda for meeting at Lake of Three Fires**
- 2. Iowa DNR awarded \$570,367 from U.S. Department of Energy**
- 3. Livestock producers should check earthen basin levels**

## **STATE REVOLVING FUND PLANS AND ANIMAL RULES ON EPC AGENDA FOR MEETING AT LAKE OF THREE FIRES**

DES MOINES — Information on how the DNR proposes to meet recent federal regulatory changes for large animal feeding operations and plans for state revolving loan funds will be at the top of the August 16 agenda for the Environmental Protection Commission.

Commissioners will be asked to approve the intended use plans for state revolving funds for clean water and for drinking water.

A proposal that would bring Iowa rules for concentrated animal feeding operations into compliance with federal regulations will be presented to commissioners as an information item. The proposal would require an estimated 1800 existing confinement feeding operations to apply for federal permits called national pollutant discharge elimination system (NPDES) permits. The permits would be required for operations that have more than 1,000 animal units or about 2500 finishing swine, 1,000 feeder cattle or 700 mature dairy cattle.

The meeting will be held at 9 a.m. in the lodge at the Lake of Three Fires State Park. Public participation is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. The meeting is open to the public.

A beach monitoring demonstration will be held prior to the meeting at 4:30 p.m. on August 15 at the park beach. Following the meeting, commissioners will hear a presentation on dredging and non point source pollution projects. They will also travel to Thayer for a discussion on the water quality and economic impacts of non-sewered communities.

The complete agenda follows:

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes
- Director's Remarks
- Proposed Rule - Amendments to Chapters 60, 63, 64 and 65 – CAFO Regulations
- Final Rule – Amend Iowa Administrative Code 567—Chapter 105, “Organic Materials Composting Facilities”
- Final Rule – Amend Iowa Administrative Code 567—Chapters 120 and 121, and Adopt new Chapter 120 “Landfarming Petroleum Contaminated Soils”
- Proposed Rule- Chapter 23, Emission Standards for Contaminants (Controlled burning of a demolished building.)
- Notice Termination: Chapter 20, “Scope of Title, Definitions, Forms, Rules and Practice” and Chapter 22, “Controlling Pollution”
- SPARS Contract
- Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund – 2005 Intended Use Plan
- FFY 2005 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan
- Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Project Contracts
- Proposed Contested Case Decision – City of Cedar Rapids
- Proposed Contested Case Decision – Gary Deboer; G&S Farms
- Referrals to the Attorney General
- Monthly Reports
- General Discussion
- Items for next month's meeting

More information about the agenda items can be found on the DNR website under Commissions and Boards at [www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com).

The members of the commission are Darrell Hanson, chair, Manchester; Kathryn Murphy, LeMars; Terrance Townsend, Newton; Lisa Davis-Cook, West Des Moines; Lori Glanzman, Mt. Pleasant; Jerry Peckum, Jefferson; Heidi Vittetoe, Washington; Francis Thicke, Fairfield; and Donna Buell, Spirit Lake. The director of the DNR is Jeff Vonk.

**For more information, contact Karen Grimes, at (515) 281-5135.**

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## **IOWA DNR AWARDED \$570,367 FROM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

DES MOINES — The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced today that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will provide \$570,367 to the state of Iowa for five energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Funding is being provided through DOE’s State Energy Program Special Projects competitive grants.

“The federal grant money is both a recognition of Iowa’s past accomplishments and a challenge to us to continue to develop renewable energy and energy efficiency programs,” said Angela Chen, DNR energy supervisor. “This federal funding will allow us to address specific needs and issues to help our state become more energy independent.”

The five projects being funded are as follows:

**Industrial Technologies (\$149,971)**- This projects partners the DNR with Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC), industry and other stakeholders to design a curriculum for a diploma program in industrial energy efficiency and waste minimization.

**Rebuild Iowa (\$130,000)**- The DNR will develop a series of sustainability and energy efficiency courses at several small universities and colleges throughout Iowa. These university and college programs will become part of Rebuild Iowa's newest partnerships to identify and implement energy saving improvements in their communities.

**Building America (\$100,000)**- The DNR will help research and test an affordable model design home with highly advanced energy efficient “whole building” technologies. The goal is to make buying a home both economical and environmentally friendly.

**Solar Technology (\$65,400)**- Working with Alliant Energy and the Iowa Renewable Energy Association, the DNR will install a 7,200-watt solar array on a converted former warehouse building in Cedar Rapids. The building is located in a designated brownfield area, which is being redeveloped by the City of Cedar Rapids and private building owners.

**State Wind Energy Support – Tall Towers (\$124,996)**- In a partnership with the Iowa Energy Center, the DNR proposes to establish a tall tower wind measurement program in Iowa to better understand wind characteristics that are important to wind energy development and operations.

The Iowa Energy Center has provided over \$430,000 for the project.

“This is a major extension of our previous wind study,” said Floyd Barwig, Iowa Energy Center director. “The size and height of wind turbines continue to increase so the data gathered from the Tall Towers study is vital.”

**For more information, contact Kelley Myers at (515) 281-4876 or by e-mail at [Kelley.Myers@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Kelley.Myers@dnr.state.ia.us).**

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**LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS SHOULD CHECK EARTHEN BASIN LEVELS**

MANCHESTER — Heavy rains throughout the state this summer have brought many earthen basins used for manure storage to dangerously high levels.

Earthen basins were designed to have two feet of freeboard or open space at the top of the basin, said Mike Wade, an environmental specialist for the Manchester DNR field office.

“I’ve seen several basins where the soils were saturated and the sidewalls could be in danger of collapsing,” he added.

Wade said that full basins are more likely to be eroded by wave action and producers should know that the top two feet of an earthen basin usually does not have a clay liner, making them more vulnerable to erosion and saturated soils.

While it’s not the best time to spread manure, Wade encourages producers to sacrifice a couple of acres in a hayfield or even a cropfield to spread manure until crops are harvested. He also cautioned that manure must still be spread at agronomic rates.

“I’ve noticed that some producers are calculating the costs of a manure spill or fish kill versus the profit from a corn or hay field, but they should weigh in the costs to the environment and replacing a basin if it fails,” Wade said.

The DNR has investigated several fish kills in northeast Iowa recently and has found overfull basins on many farms.

State law requires that producers maintain manure levels at least two feet below the top of earthen basins and one foot below the top of concrete or steel storage structures.

**For more information, contact Mike Wade at 563-927-2640.**